MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*) : Some of these officers have been appointed for specific temporaray works, and they have to be retained in service till such work, for which they have been appointed, is over, whether they are juniors or seniors.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : The answer does not say so. It says that, when Government interest and considerations of merit needed it, juniors were retained in service while seniors were disbanded. That is why I want to know whether such seniors who were disbanded, were found to be inefficient?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): Some of them were not qualified enough for the posts.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : May I know whether, among persons possessing the same qualification, consideration of merit weighed with Government, and seniors were sent away while juniors were retained ?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): There are such instances also.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): With reference to part (c), may I know whether a person with a lower qualification will be preferred to one with higher qualification, on the ground of merit ?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*) : The answer is there. "Their re-entertainment will be based on their qualifications, previous acting service and *merit*."

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : It is with reference to "*merit*" that I ask whether it may happen that the Government find more of the "merit" in a person with lower qualification than in one with higher qualification ?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*) : That is entirely left to the discretion of the Chief Engineer.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : Is it left absolutely to the discretion of the Chief Engineer ?

Mr. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): But he will follow certain principles in exercising his discretion.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Leaving alone the case of men with equal qualification, can there be any principle in prefering a man with lower qualification to one with higher qualification ?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Govennment*): If the former has the minimum qualification necessary for the post and if he is found to be very efficient, he may be preferred.

Local allowances to the Personal Assistants of the Inspecting officers of the Education Department.

401. MR. N. JOHN JOSEPH (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have recently passed orders abolishing the local allowances to the Personal Assistants of the three Inspecting officers of the Education Department, *viz.*, the Inspectors of English and Vernacular Schools and the Inspectress of Girls' Schools ?

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MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The member is referred to G. O. R. O. C. No. 1720 of 32/Genl., dated the 25th May 1932, published on page 1146, Part I of the *Gazette*, dated the 31st May 1932.

Officers to whom increments have been granted with retrospective effect since 1106.

402. MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a list of officers to whom increments of pay have been given after the 1st Chingam 1106 with retrospective effect and the arrears of pay that have been ordered to be paid in each of those cases?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): A statement* containing information regarding Gazetted officers is laid on the table.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): May I know why these confirmations, with retrospective effect, were given effect to after the economic depression set in?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I cannot say exactly when the depression set in.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): May I know why such large amounts were disbursed as arrears of pay?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Under the T. S. R. the rule is that promotions not involving change of duties would have effect from the date of the vacancies. I may point out that, in spite of that rule, these confirmations have not been made from the date of the vacancies, but only from a later date.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Is that the rule even when officers are put "*in charge*"?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): That is altogether different; that is only a temporary arrangement.

MR. A. S DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Am I to understand that, in all these cases mentioned in the statement, the promotions were given under the rule in the T. S. R.?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): With regard to Mr. H. Harihara Aiyar, may I know the date from which he was given increment?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I do not know the date.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Does that case also come under the rule of the T. S. R. referred to by the Chief Secretary?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No; there the officer was *acting* in a vacancy and he was entitled to get the promotion from the date of vacancy, since he was in the higher post from that date. The other cases are cases of grade promotions involving no change of duties.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Was he not given increment before the date from which he was entitled to it?

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*Vide Appendix III—pages iii—iv.

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